CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A slider for a disk drive, comprising:

a supporting structure having a top surface with a pocket and a plurality of protrusions protruding from the pocket where a protruding end of the protrusions forms an air bearing surface; and

a coating on the top surface of the supporting structure other than the protrusions, the coating being formed from a material that is softer than the supporting structure.

2. The slider of claim 1 wherein the coating is located on the pocket of the top surface of the supporting structure.

3. The slider of claim 1 wherein the coating is located on one or more corners of the top surface of the supporting structure.

4. The slider of claim 1 wherein the coating is located along lateral sides edges of the top surface of the supporting structure.

5. The slider of claim 1 wherein the coating is sputtered onto the top surface of the supporting structure.

6. The slider of claim 1 wherein the material of the coating is a metal.

7. The slider of claim 1 wherein the material of the coating is selected from the group consisting of metals and polymers.

8. A slider for supporting a transducer for use in a disk drive, comprising:

a support structure having a top surface with a pocket with a plurality of air bearing protrusions, and at least one shock-absorbing protrusion protruding from the pocket where a protruding end of the air bearing protrusions form an air bearing surface, and the shock-absorbing protrusion comprises a material that is softer than the supporting structure.

9. The slider of claim 8 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion is located at a corner of the top surface of the supporting structure.

10. The slider of claim 8 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion is located along lateral sides edges of the top surface of the supporting structure.

11. The slider of claim 8 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion is sputtered onto the top surface of the supporting structure.

12. The slider of claim 8 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion comprises a material selected from the group consisting of metals and polymers.

13. A magnetic recording device for reading or writing magnetically, comprising:

(a) a disk comprising a substrate and a metallic magnetic layer;

(b) a head support on a slider for magnetically reading data to or writing data from the magnetic layer on the disk, the slider comprising a support structure having a top surface with a pocket and a plurality of air bearing protrusions and at least one shock-absorbing protrusion protruding from the pocket where a protruding end of the air bearing protrusions form an air bearing surface, and the shock-absorbing protrusion comprises a material that is softer than the supporting structure;

(c) a motor operable to rotate the disk; and

(d) an actuator connected to the slider for moving a head across the disk.

14. The device of claim 13 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion is located at a corner of the top surface of the supporting structure.

15. The device of claim 13 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion is located along lateral sides edges of the top surface of the supporting structure.

16. The device of claim 13 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion is sputtered onto the top surface of the supporting structure.